(c) whether the price of aviation fuel is uniform across the country or it is different in various Indian airports; and

(d) whether there is any price difference for Indian scheduled Airlines and foreign airlines refueling in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) attracts basic customs duty @ 10% and central excise duty @ 8% as against the CENVAT rate of 14%. Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied by States and may vary across states.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) The price of ATF at a given place is dependent upon number of factors and is determined by the supplier.

Parity of pay scales for third and fourth grades employees

† 4216. SHRI B AN WARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring pay scales of fourth and third grade employees at par while implementing the report of Sixth Central Pay Commission;

(b) whether Government is considering to give minimum pay scale of Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 12,000/- to fourth and third grade employees respectively; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR B ANSAE): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission are under examination of a Committee of Secretaries.

Corruption in Public Sector Banks

4217. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that corruption is rampant in Public Sector Banks specially in financing loans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that builders mafia/construction companies easily get the loan financed even in the name of non-existing persons;

(c) if so, what action Government contemplates to take against erring officials; and

(d) if so, what action Government has taken against PNB Housing Ltd. Noida Branch which had granted loans against non-existing persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government do not subscribe to the view that corruption is rampant in the Public Sector Banks in the matter of loans. It is also not a fact that builder mafia/construction companies easily get loans financed by the banks as there are well defined systems and procedures in the banks for verifying the antecedents of the applicants before

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

granting of loans. However, cases have been reported from time to time where duplicate/ fake documents of house property were used to avail loans. In such case, suitable action such as filing of FIR with the CBI/Police, strict disciplinary action against the erring offcials is taken.

Further, Reserve Bank of India as a part of its supervisory responsibility has been advising banks from time to time about the common fraud prone areas and the measures to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidence of frauds/corruptions in banks. RBI has advised the Banks to take several precautionary measures in this regard.

Reserve Bank of India has reported that position as per quarterly returns bjing submitted by the Public Sector Banks in respect of action taken against delinquent employees for their involvement in cases of corrupt practices, during the last four years is given in the Statement. *(See* below).

(d) The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that PNB Housing Finance Ltd. (PNBHFL) had sanctioned 32 housing loans aggregating Rs. 288 lacs in October and November, 2001. The loans were secured by mortgage of 32 flats. Later, when it turned out that there was an element of fraud in the transactions, the CBI registered cases on 11.6.2002 against the officials of PNBHFL and the fraudsters. The cases are presently pending in the CBI Court at Patiala House, civil cases/writ has also been filed in the Tis Hazari Court, Karkardoma Court and Delhi High Court and are *sub-judice.* PNB has further reported that PNBHFL was able to recover Rs. 301 lacs on 25th March, 2008 from the sale of the flats mortgaged to the bank by undertaking actions under SARFAESI Act. Two erring officials of PNBHFL were removed from service on 13.6.05 and 23.6.05 respectively after due disciplinary procedures.

Statement

Details of Action taken against delinquent employees for their involvement in case of Corrupt Practices

Year	No. of employees Convicted	No. of employees awarded Major/ Minor Penalties	Out of 11 dismissed/ discharged/ removed	No. of employees Acquitted	No. of employees against whom prosecution is pending in the Court (as on Dec, 31)	No. of- employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending (as on Dec, 31)
	I	11	III	IV	V	VI
2004	10	486	71	17	172	405
2005	27	487	60	12	258	405
2006	34	529	82	22	262	592
2007	77	437	60	16	268	429

Delay in refund orders to income-tax payers

4218. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income-Tax Department has not issued refund orders to several thousand income-tax payers for the year 2007-08 in Delhi;